for 1085—in English and in Malayalam—will be placed in the hands of the Members I shall, as usual, confine myself, in this Address, to a reference to the salient features of the last year's Administration.

Casualties.

2. There were several changes in the higher ranks of the Public Service during the year. Mr. G. N. Krishna Rao, the Superintendent of the Revenue Survey Department, retired in Kanni 1085. It fell to this officer to complete the General Revenue Survey of the State, which had commenced over 30 years ago. Mr. S. Sankara Pillai the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of the Padmanabhapuram Division died in Makaram. His Highness' Government lost in him an efficient and most trustworthy Revenue officer. The talented Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyar, left on short leave in the middle of Karkadagam, and reverted to his own service soon after the close of the year. There have also been other changes, since the close of 1085. Early in Chingam 1086, Mr. O. H. Bensley, the Superintendent of Police, went on leave, and subsequently retired, after an honorable career extending over nearly 40 years. Col. Dawson, the Commandant of the Nair Brigade, left early in Kanni 1086, on leave, at the end of which he reverted to his own service.

Financial.

3. I would invite the careful attention of the Members to the Financial Review given in Chapter II of the Report. The Revenue of the year was Rs. 1,21,03,133, and the Expenditure Rs. 1,19,20,521. There was thus a Surplus of Rs. 1,82,612. On account, however, of the Abnormal Losses, aggregating to Rs. 6,32,334, the nature of which has been explained in the Report, the Balance to the credit of the Government fell from Rs. 71,95,761 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 67,46,039 at its close. The year 1085 closed a quinquennium during which strenuous attempts were made to balance the Finances, and His Highness' Government are glad to be in a position to say that these attempts have, on the whole, been successful. The weak point of the Finances is the Capital liability—aggregating to Rs. 1,17,97,215,—outstanding against the State, on account of the money which had been raised by the South Indian Railway Company, on the responsibility of His Highness' Government, for constructing the Railway line between Shencotta and Quilon. As this Railway has continuously worked at a loss, the Government have had to make an annual payment, averaging about Rs. 2,10,000, to make good the guaranteed interest to the Debenture holders. The question of providing a Sinking Fund for liquidating the liability has not yet been settled. The real difficulty is that the Finances have been *barely* balanced; the surplus of Receipts over Disbursements will, *as matters now stand*, be ordinarily so small, that it will be difficult to provide for an adequate annual payment to the credit of the Sinking Fund.

Main Heads of Revenue.

4. The administration of the Main Heads of Revenue during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. The 'Land Revenue Demand' (Net) amounted to Rs. 36,00,975 under 'Current', and Rs. 1,58,136 under 'Arrears', making up a total of Rs. 37,59,111. The Revenue Settlement of the State has been finished. The 'Collections' amounted to Rs. 35,88,132, and a sum of Rs. 14,206 was written

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